

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 66, 73, 78, 85, 90 and 97 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 66-101 will be pending in the present application, in which claims 66, 78 and 90 are independent.

1. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 66, 74, 78, 86, 90 and 97 due to typographical errors. Claims 66, 78, 90 and 97 have been amended to correct the typographical errors therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action erroneously objects to claims 74 and 86. The required corrections noted in the Office Action relate to claims 73 and 85, not claims 74 and 86. Therefore, claims 73 and 85 have been amended to correct the typographical errors noted in the Office Action. Claims 74 and 86 have not been amended, as these claims do not contain any typographical errors.

Applicants submit that claims 66, 74, 78, 86, 90 and 97 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 66, 74, 78, 86, 90 and 97.

2. Rejection of Claims 66-101 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 66-101 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,092,121 to Bennett et al. ("Bennett"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Bennett discloses a system that electronically integrates data captured in heterogeneous information systems from local computer systems and transmits that data over the Internet to

multiple diverse servers at remote computer systems. Bennett discloses a local computer system, i.e., a dealer server 11, shown in FIG. 2. In response to a user input or event, a request is generated which is handled by an Input/Output API to generate a data buffer, which represents a machine independent data stream. The data buffer is forwarded to a work flow (WF) client API, which creates a WF client object containing the data buffer. The WF client object is then sent to a store and forward transport mechanism, which sends the WF client object to a destination WF server at a remote computer system via the Internet (see column 5, line 53 - column 6, line 30; FIG. 2). The destination WF server converts the received WF client object to a WF server object, which is then input to a map server function that extracts the data buffer. The data buffer is interpreted to invoke an appropriate message handler, and depending on the action taken by the message handler, the data buffer may be modified and used to generate a WF client object containing other data buffers for transmission to the local computer system (see column 6, lines 38-47; FIG. 3).

In summary, Bennett discloses a peer-to-peer system including one or more direct, bi-lateral relationships between individual local computer systems and individual remote computer systems. In Bennett's system each individual local computer system must establish and maintain a separate and direct relationship with each individual remote computer system targeted for communication. Therefore, in Bennett, for N remote computer systems to be targeted for communication, each local computer system would be required to establish and maintain N relationships.

Bennett does not teach or suggest a system like the claimed invention, which is not peer-to-peer, and wherein each local computer system may establish a single relationship with an intermediate computer system between the local computer systems and the remote computer systems, and which intermediate computer system provides interfaces tailored to each local computer system. Therefore, in the claimed invention, for N remote computer systems to be targeted for communication, if they are interfacing with the intermediate computer system, then each local computer system would be required to establish and maintain only one relationship

with the intermediate computer system.

In contrast to Bennett, claims 66, 78 and 90, of the present application include, in some form, the elements of receiving, with a programmable computer, various requests from a plurality of incompatible applications; transmitting, with the programmable computer, the received requests to a plurality of incompatible databases; receiving, with the programmable computer, data responses from the plurality of incompatible databases, the data responses corresponding to the transmitted requests from the plurality of incompatible applications; and transmitting, with the programmable computer, the data responses to the plurality of incompatible applications, each data response being transmitted in a format compatible with the application to which it is transmitted. Bennett does not disclose or suggest these claim elements. As discussed above, Bennett's system requires that each individual local computer system must establish and maintain a separate and direct relationship with each individual remote computer system. Accordingly, claims 66, 78 and 90, and their respective dependent claims, are allowable.

3. Conclusion

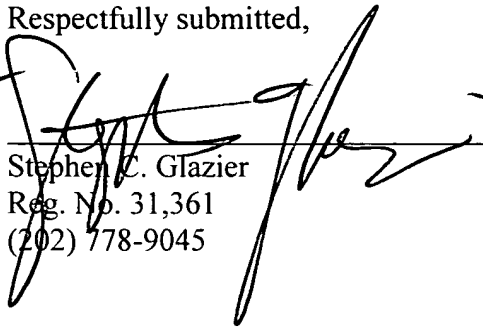
In view of the above, claims 66-101 clearly recite elements that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Bennett, or the prior art made of record. Applicants submit that such claims are allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that this application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to address the Examiner's concerns.

Please apply any necessary additional charges or credits to Deposit Account 50-1721.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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